1-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a computer processor,

an operating system operative in connection with the computer processor,

a display responsive to the operating system,

~~a pointing device including:~~

a mouse that is movable with respect to a work surface and includes:

a position sensor operative to interact with the work surface to derive a position signal and having an output line for the position signal, and

a tactile actuator having an input line,

a ~~pointing device~~mouse driver responsive to the output line of the position sensor and wherein the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the ~~pointing device~~mouse driver,

a plurality of applications responsive to the ~~pointing device~~mouse driver and to the operating system and in communication with the display, and wherein the ~~pointing device~~mouse driver is responsive to the general purpose applications, and

a plurality of application-specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding application~~, wherein at least some of the application specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character~~.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently amended) ~~A computer system, comprising:~~

~~a computer processor,~~

~~an operating system operative in connection with the computer processor,~~

~~a display responsive to the operating system,~~

~~a pointing device including:~~

~~a position sensor having an output line, and~~

~~a tactile actuator having an input line,~~

~~a pointing device driver responsive to the output line~~The apparatus of ~~the position sensor and wherein the input line of the tactile actuator is responsive to the pointing device driver,~~

~~a plurality of applications responsive to the pointing device driver and to the operating system and in communication with the display, and wherein the pointing device driver is responsive to the general purpose applications, and~~

~~a plurality of application specific profile elements for the plurality of applications that define tactile signals to be sent to the tactile actuator when interacting with the corresponding application,~~claim 26 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements correspond to classes of the applications supported by the computer system.

29-38. (Cancelled).

39. (Currently amended) A method of operating a computer, comprising:

receiving signals from a ~~pointing device~~mouse as it moves with respect to a work surface during interaction with a first application, accessing a first application-specific profile element,

sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the ~~pointing device~~mouse in response to the step of receiving signals from a ~~pointing device~~mouse during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first ~~a first~~ application-specific profile element,

generating a first type of tactile signal in the ~~pointing device~~mouse in response to the first type of actuation command,

receiving signals from a ~~pointing device~~mouse as it moves with respect to a work surface during interaction with a second application,

accessing a second application-specific profile element,

sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the ~~pointing device~~mouse in response to the step of receiving signals from a ~~pointing device~~mouse during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a second application-specific profile element,

generating a second type of tactile signal in the ~~pointing device~~mouse in response to the second type of actuation command~~, and~~.

~~wherein at least some of the application specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.~~

40. (Cancelled).

41. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least one of the profile elements maps interactions with single alphanumeric characters to tactical impulses.

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the tactical impulses are sent to the actuator in the form of analog pulses.

43. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least one of the profile elements maps movement from one character to the next to a tactical signal.

44. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the classes include at least one text-based class.

45. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the classes include at least one unknown application.

46. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method of ~~operating a computer, comprising:~~

~~receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application.~~

~~accessing a first application-specific profile element,~~

~~sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first a first application-specific profile element.~~

~~generating a first type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the first type of actuation command,~~

~~receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a second application,~~

~~accessing a second application-specific profile element,~~

~~sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a second application-specific profile element.~~

~~generating a second type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the second type of actuation command, and~~

~~claim 39~~ wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are derived by a driver as the computer operates.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are derived from scanning at least a part of a window.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein at least sonic of the application-specific profile elements are derived from applying tests to screen display information.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are derived from applying simplified statistical tests.

50. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method of ~~operating a computer, comprising:~~

~~receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a first application.~~

~~accessing a first application-specific profile element,~~

~~sending a first type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the first application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a first a first application-specific profile element.~~

~~generating a first type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the first type of actuation command,~~

~~receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with a second application,~~

~~accessing a second application-specific profile element.~~

~~sending a second type of actuation command request signal to an actuator in the pointing device in response to the step of receiving signals from a pointing device during interaction with the second application, with the type of actuation command request being defined by the step of accessing a second application-specific profile element,~~

~~generating a second type of tactile signal in the pointing device in response to the second type of actuation command, and~~

claim 39 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements correspond to classes of the applications supported by the computer.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the classes include at least one text-based class.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the classes include at least one unknown application.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the mouse includes a housing that supports the position sensor and tactile actuator.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least one of the applications includes a word processor.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.

56. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein at least one of the applications includes a word processor.

57. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein at least some of the application-specific profile elements are based on cells each containing a single alphanumeric character.